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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,582	12/14/2001	David Stanley Ohn Tinn	KKL16	3242

466 7590 02/06/2003

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EXAMINER

COTTINGHAM, JOHN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/014,582

Applicant(s)

TINN, DAVID STANLEY OHN

Examiner

John R. Cottingham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: the term "moulded" should be --molded--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

4. Claims 1-6 and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Friedrich U.S. Patent 6,227,752. Friedrich shows all of the claimed subject matter of a connector in Figures 1-6. A connector device comprising a body portion 11 having a bore defining a housing to receive one of two members to be inter-connected and a stem 14 portion of substantially cylindrical form having a major axis disposed substantially perpendicular to the major axis of the bore defined in the body portion 11, the stem portion 14 is adapted to be received, in use, in a housing defined by a bore of a second of the two members to be interconnected by the connector device, and the

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stem portion 14 comprising in the outer surface thereof an annular groove (between 14 and 14c, the edge) having the major axis thereof coincident with the major axis of the stem portion and the annular groove being provided axially inwards from the distal end of the stem portion.

Regarding claim 2, the stem portion 14 is of a hollow tubular form.

Regarding claim 3, the wall thickness of the stem portion at an axial position aligned with the annular groove is substantially equal to that wall thickness of the stem portion at least at a position to one side of the groove.

Regarding claim 4, the annular groove (between 14 and 14c) is of substantially uniform depth as considered in a circumferential direction of the groove.

Regarding claim 5, the annular groove is of substantially uniform width as considered in a circumferential direction of the groove (the edge between 14 and 14c).

Regarding claim 6, the groove is of a curved shape in cross-section (when looking from one end).

Regarding claim 10, the body portion 11 provides an abutment surface at one end of the stem portion for contact, in use, by an end of a housing of the second of the two members to be interconnected by the connector device.

Regarding claim 11, the body portion defines a through-bore to receive one of two members to be inter-connected.

Regarding claim 12, the annular groove at the surface of the stem portion 14 has a width which is at least one quarter of the axial length of the stem portion.

Regarding claim 13, the width of the annular groove is at least one third of the axial length of the stem portion.

Regarding claim 14, the stem portion 14 and body portion are integrally formed from cast or moulded material.

Regarding claim 15, a connector device assembly for forming a structural interconnection between two members, the assembly comprising a connector device, one of two members to be inter-connected and locking means selectively operable to inter-connect the connector device and the one of two members, the connector device comprising a body portion 11 having a bore defining a housing to receive a first of said two members to be interconnected and a stem portion of substantially cylindrical form having a major axis disposed substantially perpendicular to the major axis of the bore defined by the body portion, the stem portion is adapted to receive, in use, in a second housing 12 defined by a bores of a second of the two member to be interconnected by the connector device, the stem portion comprising in the outer surface thereof a groove having the major axis thereof coincident with the major axis of the stem portion, the annular groove is provided axially inwards from the distal end of the stem portion, and the locking means 15 is supported by the housing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friedrich. Friedrich does not disclose the exact ranges claimed by the Applicant, however, where the range of device sizes disclosed in the prior art envelopes the recited range, and there is no showing of criticality of the recited range, such recited range would have been one of ordinary skill in the art. In re Reven, 390 F.2d 997, 156 USPQ 679 (CCPA 1968).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Feykert U.S. Patent 2,090,863, and Venegas, Jr. U.S. Patent 6,039,308 shows similar inventions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John R. Cottingham whose telephone number is (703) 306-3439. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3597 for regular communications and (703) 305-3597 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-216.



John R. Cottingham
Examiner
Art Unit 3679

jrc
February 3, 2003